AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method to silence a gene of a plant sap-sucking insect, comprising applying to the feed of said plant sap-sucking insect dsRNA or siRNA without a transfection promoting agent, wherein said dsRNA or siRNA is targeted to an essential gene of a plant sap-sucking insect gene, wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: [[No.]] 5, and wherein said dsRNA or siRNA brings about a decreased growth, development, reproduction or survival of said insect when injected therein as compared to said insects injected with buffer without said dsRNA or siRNA.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, wherein said essential gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 90% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: [[No.]] 5.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method to silence an essential gene in a plant sap-sucking insect, comprising: adding dsRNA or siRNA without a transfection-promoting agent to the diet or feed of said plant sap-sucking insect, wherein said dsRNA or siRNA targets said essential gene, wherein said essential gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID <u>NO:</u> [[No.]] 5<u>, and wherein said dsRNA or siRNA brings about a decreased growth, development, reproduction or survival of said insect when injected therein as compared to said insects injected with buffer without said dsRNA or siRNA</u>.

Claims 14-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 90% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claims 31-34. (Canceled)

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling sap-sucking insects, comprising feeding said insects dsRNA or siRNA without a transfection promoting agent, wherein said dsRNA or siRNA is targeted to an essential gene of said plant sap-sucking insects, wherein said essential gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID <u>NO:</u> [[No.]] 5<u>, and wherein said dsRNA or siRNA brings about a decreased growth,</u>

development, reproduction or survival of said insect when injected therein as compared to said insects injected with buffer without said dsRNA or siRNA.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 10, 13 or 35, wherein the sequence of said dsRNA or siRNA is a sequence that targets an essential gene sequence or a portion thereof that is present identically or with a sequence identity of higher than 95 % in a plurality of plant sap-sucking insect species of a plant host , wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: [[No.]] 5, and wherein said dsRNA or siRNA brings about a decreased growth, development, reproduction or survival of said insect when injected therein as compared to said insects injected with buffer without said dsRNA or siRNA.

Claim 37. (New) The method of claim 10, 13, or 35, wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor with a DNA sequence having higher than 95 % sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 38. (New) The method of claim 10, 13, or 35, wherein said gene is the gene corresponding to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein only that portion from nucleotide position 72 to the end of SEQ ID NO:5 is used as gene target in designing the dsRNA molecule.